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Reading Matters!

From the desks of Sherry Manley, Ashley Richardella, Jen Herncane, and Robyn Eckels—Early Literacy Coaches

Re-Ignite your PASSION to Light Their Fire!

Resources from SDE: Staff Development for Educators - www.sde.com

Re -ignite your P.A.S.S.I.O.N.

From Staff Development for Educators (SDE), the acronym PASSION can help you to prioritize, sustain your passion and keep a positive attitude despite the many pressures of being a primary teacher:

P - Priority Management and

Selective Abandonment – Instead of trying to 'do it all' all the time, sometimes you have to prioritize and choose NOT to redo meeting notes or make that new bulletin board even more creative than last year!

A - Attitude – Your attitude is contagious. Instead of "That kid is in my class? Oh no.", say "That kid is in my class!" Look forward with a positive attitude about making a difference.

S - Student Focus – In everything that you do on a daily basis, you must keep the students' best interest at heart. Your classroom may be the safest environment he/she will experience.

S - Smart Teaching and DI – Using Differentiated Instruction, you ensure that you avoid overwhelming the students with too much, too fast, for too long. If you overflow their brain, they miss a piece of what you taught.

I - Body, Heart, Mind and Soul - You must make yourself a priority. If you don't take care of 'you', you will run out of passion to teach.

O - Others – Communicate! Understand what type of person you aren't to better understand your teammates.

N - Balance – Keep a healthy

Why We Use Word Walls

www.sde.com

What? – Why? – When?

WHAT? - A word wall is a systematically organized collection of words displayed in the classroom. It provides a visual map from all angles of the classroom so that students can make and remember connections for each of the word wall words. Use visual aides wherever possible to make connections to the print. For example, have a number 2 beside the word 'two' on your word wall.

Word walls are to be used – not just displayed – to promote group and individual learning.

WHY? - Brain research suggests that the brain needs creative repetition – which we use in teaching our word wall words. Our goal is for students to achieve automaticity and spell these words correctly! Through the use of the word wall and our creative ways of teaching it, students will 'unlearn' wrong spellings of word wall words and will instead learn through frequent repetition and referencing of the word wall words.

WHEN? - Kindergarten through second grade will use the word wall to introduce new words through visual, auditory, and kinesthetic practice of SEEING, CHEERING, AND WRITING each of the new words being added to the word wall – **See attached documents for a list of cheers to use in teaching word wall words!**

Hold students accountable for accurate completion of word wall work to help them 'unlearn' words they've

A teacher affects
eternity:
he can never tell
where his influence
stops.
Henry Adams

Get Your Students Moving, Grooving, and Involved!

Ideas presented by SDE presenter Lori Elliott

***Clap, stomp, hop, and wiggle syllables.**

***Play "Back to Back":** Students stand back to back and use a word. They decide how many syllables the word has and put up that number of fingers. At a signal, they turn and show their partner their answer.

***Play "Simon Says" (with a twist):** When giving a command, segment the word for the students to blend together. Ex. Simon says /j//u//m//p/." Students blend the word and perform the action.

***Play "Zip Zap":** Students get into a circle. The teacher/a student stands in the center of the circle and asks a question like "What rhymes with..." The person in the center spins around, stops, points to a student, and says "Zip." The person pointed to says "Zap" which signals the students on either side of the "zap" person to race to answer the question. The winner takes over the center of the circle.

***Appointment Partners:** Schedule 1-2 minute timeframes during the day for students to "chat" with a partner about something they learned that day.

***Walk and Talk:** Same idea as Appointment Partners only students walk 3 laps or so around the room as they chat.

***Debate:** Have at least 2 students who have different predictions about how an unfinished story may end discuss why they chose their prediction using specific story clues.

***Story Jigsaw:** Split a story up into parts and have each person summarize their part to the class.

Learning is not a spectator sport.

---Anonymous

More About Using Favorite Songs

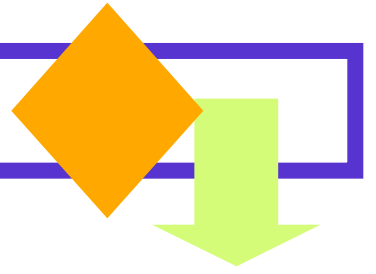
List compiled by SDE presenter Lori Elliott

You can use favorite tunes to help your students spell almost any word. Give these a try:

<u># of letters</u>	<u>Song(s)</u>
3	This Old Man, Jingle Bells, Three Blind Mice
4	YMCA, Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, Are You Sleeping? Skip to My Lou
5	Row Row Row Your Boat, Bingo, You Are My Sunshine
6	Happy Birthday, The Farmer in the Dell
7	She'll Be Coming 'Round the Mountain
8	We Wish You a Merry Christmas, For He's a Jolly Good Fellow
9	I'm a Little Teapot
11	If You're Happy and You Know It
12	Ten Little Indians



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Story Headline

The purpose of a newsletter is to provide specialized information to a targeted audience. Newsletters can be a great way to market your product or service, and also create credibility and build your organization's identity among peers, members, employees, or vendors.

First, determine the audience of the newsletter. This could be anyone who might benefit from the information it contains, for example, employees or people interested in purchasing a product or requesting your service.

You can compile a mailing list from business reply cards, customer information sheets, Business cards collected at trade shows, or membership lists. You might consider purchasing a mailing list from a

company.

If you explore the Project Gallery, you will find many publications that match the style of your newsletter.

Next, establish how much time and money you can spend on your newsletter. These factors will help determine how frequently you publish your newsletter at least quarterly so that it's considered a consistent source of information. Your customers or employees will look forward to its arrival.

Your headline is an important part of the newsletter and should be considered carefully.

Story Headline

You can also research articles or find "filler" articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Word offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you're finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.

The subject matter that appears in

newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."



Your business
tagline can go
here

We're on the Web!

See us at:

Back Page Story Headline

In a few words, it should accurately represent the contents of the story and draw readers into the story. Develop the headline before you write the story. This way, the headline will help you keep the story focused.

Examples of possible headlines include Product Wins Industry Award, New Product Can Save You Time, Membership Drive Exceeds Goals, and New Office Opens Near You.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

About Our Organization...

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or enhances the message you're trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft includes thousands of clip art images from which you can choose and import into your

newsletter. There are also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the caption of the image near the image.